



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, November 6, 2009

*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

Public Affairs
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**SACATON MAN SENTENCED TO 27 YEARS PRISON FOR 2ND DEGREE
MURDER AND AGGRAVATED ASSAULT FOR VEHICULAR HOMICIDE
OF GILBERT MAN**

PHOENIX - Webster Norris III, 44, of Sacaton, Ariz., was sentenced yesterday to 27 years in prison by U.S. District Judge Mary H. Murguia after Norris was found guilty of Second Degree Murder and Aggravated Assault by a federal jury on June 26, 2009. Norris was responsible for the 2008 vehicular homicide of a bicyclist on the Gila River Indian Reservation.

On September 20, 2008, Norris and a female colleague spent the day drinking and driving throughout the Arizona communities of Chandler, Maricopa, Casa Blanca, Casa Grande and Sacaton. Norris had consumed a 12-pack, as well as 40-ounce cans, of beer. About 20 minutes before the collision, Norris raced through a residential area where emergency responders were trying to extinguish a residential fire. Although warned to slow down approximately 10 times, the passenger testified that Norris's speed reached as high as 90 mph.

Norris passed two vehicles and collided with a bicyclist, a 60-year-old Gilbert, Ariz., man who was cross-training in preparation for a marathon. The impact of the collision was at such a high speed that the left side of the victim's body was mangled, to include total amputation of his left arm and hand and near amputation of the left side of his leg. The victim's amputated arm and hand flew into Norris's car and into the back seat.

The evidence showed that Norris never slowed prior to, or after, hitting the victim. Norris drove his vehicle some distance down the road, stopped his vehicle and told his passenger to get out and run. Norris was located 48 hours later and claimed he had no memory of the previous 48 hours due to his extreme intoxication. Norris had previously been convicted of Aggravated DUI in Arizona and had been arrested for DUI twice in 2007 for drunk driving on the Gila River Indian Reservation.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Gila River Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution was handled by Heather Belt and Sharon Sexton, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-08-1523-PHX-MHM
RELEASE NUMBER: 2009-351(Norris)

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